

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 794
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10104

DEPT PASS EXIMBANK, COMMERCE, TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/76
TAGS: EMIN, CG
SUBJECT: PERFORMANCE OF GECAMINES IN 1976

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED INTERNAL GECAMINES DOCUMENT WHICH SUMMARIZES PRODUCTION AND EXPORT PERFORMANCE THROUGH SEPTEMBER AND WHICH PREDICTS PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR. THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT TOTAL NEW COPPER PRODUCTION WILL BE 437 THOUSAND TONS, WHILE TOTAL COPPER MINE PRODUCTION WILL BE 425.9 THOUSAND TONS, ABOUT 12 PER CENT BELOW WHAT GECAMINES HAD PLANNED. ANNUAL COBALT PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT 11.1 THOUSAND TONS OR 26 PER CENT BELOW THE PLAN. GECAMINES EXPECTS TO PROCESS TO ELECTROLYTIC COPPER STAGE ONLY 64.9 THOUSAND MT AS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS PLANS TO PROCESS 271 THOUSAND MT THROUGH THIS STAGE.

2. THE REPORT FURTHER NOTES THAT COPPER EMBARKATIONS (ZAIRE GETS PAID FOR COPPER EXPORTS AT THE TIME OF EMBARKATION) TOTALED 328.6 THOUSAND TONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER AND WERE RUNNING 23.7 THOUSAND TONS OFF THE PACE PLANNED BY GECAMINES. AT THIS RATE, COPPER EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR WOULD TOTAL 438 THOUSAND TONS.

3. THE INTERNAL TRAFFIC OF GECAMINES' MINERALS WAS DISTURBED IN SEPTEMBER BY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IN THE NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY, SNCZ. TRANSPORT PROBLEMS ALSO ARE AFFECTING EXPORTS OF ZINC. DURING SEPTEMBER 5,000 TONS OF ZINC METAL WHICH WAS
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SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN EXPORTED VIA DAR ES SALAAM WAS NOT

SHIPPED BECAUSE OF CONGESTION ON THIS ROUTE. AS A RESULT,
GECAMINES' EXPORTS OF ZINC TOTALED ONLY 43.2 THOUSAND TONS
THROUGH SEPTEMBER AS COMPARED TO AN ANNUAL EXPORT GOAL OF
76.5 THOUSAND TONS.
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Message Attributes

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